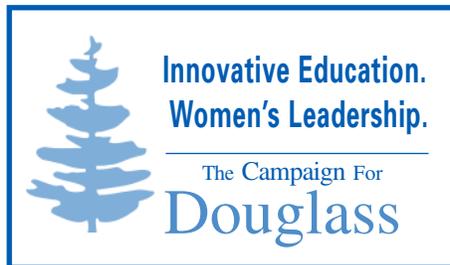# Today's Douglass Difference

Douglass is unique. By choosing the only public women's college within a major research university, Douglass students receive the best of both worlds: the resources of Rutgers and the counseling, requirements, special opportunities, and community of a women's College.

Today's Douglass students not only take on the requirements of their academic major course of study, but also choose a well-rounded education.

Douglass specific requirements include:

First Year Mission Course, *Knowledge and Power: Issues in Women's Leadership* - This course combines small sections and large plenary sessions featuring distinguished women. Students benefit from peer mentoring which guides them through the course work and provides information and resources. Students are also required to interview a woman who is 20 years their senior to investigate how gender effects self esteem and societal mores. Students develop a sense of community by having shared this foundational course. They also build skills and self-confidence in critical thinking, public speaking, and professional networking.

Development of an E-Portfolio - An online resume where students list their accomplishments and give a visual representation of who they are. Through a secure portal, graduate school admission officers and employers can see photos of students in their extracurricular activities, read their research papers, or watch a video of them in action as a peer academic leader or in a service project. Creating their e-portfolio challenges students to think beyond the classroom and determine which co-curricular programs will best shape their individual colligate experience.

Completion of an Externship - Every Douglass student is required to spend at least one of their winter or spring breaks in a job-shadowing experience with an alumna, through the award winning Associate Alumnae of Douglass College Externship Program. Students try on a career for size which helps to refine or sometimes totally change their goals.

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Capstone Experience - Douglass Deans are currently piloting a Capstone Experience, which will be part of future requirements for students. The goal is to create a conference offered late in the junior year which will teach students how to translate their Douglass experiences to life after College.

Among the special opportunities available are:

Living-Learning Communities - During their sophomore through senior years, Douglass students have the opportunity to reside in one of eleven different living-learning communities. These themed "houses" center around an area of common interest, such as the creative arts, entrepreneurship, foreign language, culture, or human rights. Students take a course together in-residence and participate in projects, activities, and travel opportunities. Douglass' Bunting-Cobb residence hall for women in science, technology, engineering and mathematics currently has more than 100 residents, each of whom receive specialized tutoring, mentoring, and resource assistance.

Leadership Opportunities - Throughout their College years, Douglass students also benefit from the personal attention of the Douglass Assistant Deans and from leadership opportunities which add practical experience to their academic pursuits. Students serve as summer orientation counselors, as peer academic leaders, and as admission tour guides. Those interested in the civic sector might participate in the Public Leadership Education Network, a national program for students attending women's colleges which brings them to Washington, D.C. to attend workshops and meet women legislators. Another addition to opportunities for students is that residents of the Human Rights House in the Global Village will receive training and become official delegates to the United Nations Conference on Women, a program Douglass is offering in partnership with the University's Center for Women's Global Leadership.

Through these opportunities and more, Douglass women graduate with a real competitive advantage.

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